

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449 form.

The listed documents were cited in the parent of the present divisional application, Application No. 09/383,927, and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the files of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for review of those documents. (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) and MPEP § 609.) Note that U.S. Patent No. 6,636,903 B2 and U.S. Patent No. 6,535,935 B1 were cited as co-pending applications during prosecution of the parent of the present divisional application, but have since issued as patents (in view of the current practice of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of these two U.S. patents are not enclosed).

The Examiner is requested to indicate that the listed documents have been considered by initialing the appropriate portions of the PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of same to Applicants' attorneys of record.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. application:

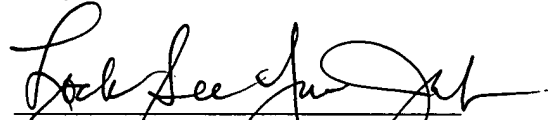
| <u>APPLICATION NO.</u> | <u>FILING DATE</u> | <u>GROUP ART UNIT</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 09/447,305             | November 23, 1999  | 3629                  |

A copy of the cited application, as originally filed, is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Lock See Yu-JAHNES  
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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|  |  |                    |          |   |       |  |                                       |
|--|--|--------------------|----------|---|-------|--|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified)<br><br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE<br><br>LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)<br><i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> |  |                    |          | ATTY DOCKET NO.<br><b>03500.013745.1</b>    |       | APPLICATION NO.<br><b>Div. of 09/383,927</b> |                                       |
|  |  |                    |          | APPLICANT<br><b>TOMOAKI ENDO ET AL.</b>     |       |  |                                       |
|  |  |                    |          | FILING DATE<br><b>Concurrently Herewith</b> |       |  | GROUP<br><b>2626</b>                  |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS  |  |                    |          |   |       |  |                                       |
| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL   |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE     | NAME  | CLASS | SUBCLASS                                     | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE         |
|  |  | 6,535,932 B1       | 03/2003  | Endoh e tal.                                | 710   | 7  |                                       |
|  |  | 6,636,903 B2       | 10/2003  | Endoh et al.                                | 710   | 8  |                                       |
|  |  | 5,467,181          | 11/1995  | Doi   | 399   | 364  |                                       |
|  |  | 6,292,267 B1       | 09/2001  | Mori et al.                                 | 358   | 1.15   |                                       |
|  |  | 6,301,014 B1       | 10/2001  | Miura et al.                                | 358   | 1.15   |                                       |
|  |  | 6,141,111          | 10/2000  | Kato  | 358   | 1.15   |                                       |
|  |  | 5,946,457          | 08/1999  | Nakai et al.                                | 358   | 1.13   |                                       |
|  |  | 6,239,880 B1       | 05/2001  | Barrett et al.                              | 358   | 1.16   |                                       |
|  |  | 2003/0088651       | 05/2003  | Wilson                                      | 709   | 221  |                                       |
|  |  | 6,064,490          | 05/2000  | Minamizawa                                  | 358   | 1.14   |                                       |
|  |  | 5,420,667          | 05/1995  | Kaneko et al.                               | 399   | 8  |                                       |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS   |  |                    |          |   |       |  |                                       |
|  |  | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE     | COUNTRY                                     | CLASS | SUBCLASS                                     | TRANSLATION<br>YES/NO/<br>OR ABSTRACT |
|  |  | 2 305 275 A        | 04/02/97 | United Kingdom                              |       |  |                                       |
|  |  | 0 786 736 A2       | 07/30/97 | EPO   |       |  |                                       |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)   |  |                    |          |   |       |  |                                       |
|  |  |                    |          |   |       |  |                                       |
|  |  |                    |          |   |       |  |                                       |
| EXAMINER   |  |                    |          | DATE CONSIDERED                             |       |  |                                       |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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